

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4861

FROM SCRANTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN XG YO OVIP

SUBJ: SCRANTON-MINIC MEETING - KOREA

1. GOVERNOR SCRANTON MET WITH YUGOSLAVIA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY MILOS MINIC AT SVETI STEFAN JUL 23, 1976. DURING THEIR MEETING THEY DISCUSSED KOREA.

2. SCRANTON REFERRED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S JUL 22 SPEECH WHICH INCLUDED OUR NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVE ON KOREA. SCRANTON STRESSED THAT THE U.S. AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT WE WOULD NEVER RESOLVE THE KOREAN PROBLEM BY UNGA RESOLUTIONS AND THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION WAS TO GET NORTH-SOUTH TALKS GOING. SCRANTON POINTED TO LEGAL DIFFICULTY OF REMOVING THE U.N. FLAG, BECAUSE NORTH KOREA HAD SAID, IF THE U.N. COMMAND IS DISSOLVED, THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WOULD CEASE TO EXIST. THEREFORE, A DECISION IS NEEDED ON HOW TO MAINTAIN THE ARMISTICE BEFORE BROADER NEGOTIATIONS START ON HOW TO RESOLVE THE KOREAN PROBLEM. SCRANTON REQUESTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA TAKE SOME OF THE LEADERSHIP AT COLOMBO AND THE UNGA TO GET THIS EFFORT ON THE WAY. SCRANTON COMMENTED THAT NYERE, KAUNDA, AND KHAMA ALL RECOGNIZED

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THAT RESUMED NORTH-SOUTH TALKS WERE THE ONLY WAY TO SOLUTION.

3. MINIC NOTED THAT OUR INITIATIVE CALLED FOR A NEWLY ACTIVATED ROLE FOR CHINA. WHEN MINIC ASKED IF WE HAD TALKED TO THE SOVIETS, SCRANTON SAID THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH LEFT MATTER OPEN. MINIC ADDED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS DON'T RECOGNIZE THE SOUTH KOREANS AS A FACTOR, SINCE THE NORTH KOREANS INVOKE THE FORMAL, LEGAL POSITION THAT SOUTH KOREA WAS NOT A SIGNATORY TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. HE RECALLED THE FAMILIAR NORTH KOREAN LINE THAT THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REPLACED BY A NORTH KOREAN-U.S. PEACE AGREEMENT. FINALLY, AFTER A U.S.-NORTH KOREAN PEACE AGREEMENT, NORTH KOREANS WOULD SIT DOWN WITH SOUTH KOREA TO RESOLVE MATTERS FURTHER.

4. MINIC CONTINUED THAT THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL WOULD NEED STUDY. PROVIDED IT PROVED ACCEPTABLE TO NORTH KOREA, IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO YUGOSLAVIA. HE ADDED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS CONSIDER THE JUL 4, 1972 JOINT SOUTH-NORTH COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR SOUTH-NORTH TALKS STILL TO BE "FULLY VALID". MINIC SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT NORTH KOREA WANTED TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH SOUTH KOREA PEACEFULLY.

5. SCRANTON REEMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR THE U.S., CHINA AND NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS MATTERS. SOUTH KOREA CANNOT BE LEFT OUT OF ANY NEGOTIATION. HE AGAIN URGED MINIC TO ENCOURAGE THIS.

6. MINIC WOULD MAKE NO "PROMISES", BUT SAID YUGOSLAVIA WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH NORTH KOREA WITH WHICH IT HAD "VERY GOOD RELATIONS". HE SAID THAT NORTH KOREA AS IN A "SANDWICH" BETWEEN CHINA, THE USSR, AND THE U.S. DESPITE SCRANTON'S COMMENTS REGARDING NORTH KOREA'S DEFENSE AGREEMENTS WITH CHINA AND THE USSR, MINIC CONSIDERED NORTH KOREA GENUINELY "NONALIGNED". HE STRESSED THAT IN THE "LONGER RUN" NORTH KOREA CAN ONLY BE A NONALIGNED COUNTRY.

7. COMMENT: WE GATHERED FROM YUGOSLAVS AT SCRANTON-MINIC MEETING THAT COLOMBO LANGUAGE ON KOREA LIKELY TO BE VERY SIMILAR TO THAT AT LIMA. THEY STRESSED THAT THIS LANGUAGE DID NOT EXCLUDE SOUTH KOREA FROM TALKS. YUGOSLAVS INDICATED THAT NORTH KOREANS NOT ENTIRELY PLEASED WITH THIS. THEY INDICATED TOO THAT THE USSR
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CURRENTLY ENJOYS GREATER INFLUENCE IN NORTH KOREA THAN CHINA. SILBERMAN

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